

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A processing method for a structured/hierarchical content for making a determination about whether or not structured/hierarchical content delivered through a network includes a content portion matched with a predetermined matching pattern, and for performing predetermined processing for the structured/hierarchical content if a result of the determination is positive, comprising:

a target subtree setting step of setting a target subtree relating to a range including a target content portion as an extracted portion of the matching pattern in the structure/hierarchical content (hereafter, referred to as a "target content") from which the matching pattern is to be extracted by the computer;

an occurrence mode defecting step of detecting an occurrence mode of each node of the target subtree by selecting a plurality of past structured/hierarchical contents with respect to the target content and collating the target subtree relating to the target content with a tree relating to each of the past structure/hierarchical contents by the computer;

a statistical information generating step of generating statistical information concerning an occurrence frequency of the occurrence mode of each node in the target subtree based on the plurality of past structured/hierarchical contents by the computer;

a classifying step of performing classification of each node of the target subtree based on a result of detecting the occurrence mode and the statistical information; and

matching pattern generating step of generating the matching pattern for the target content portion based on the classification by the computer.

31. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 30, wherein  
the predetermined processing is to associate related information with the content portion of the structured/hierarchical content.

32. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 31, wherein  
the related information includes an annotation.

33. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 30, wherein  
the predetermined processing is processing for copying the content portion of the structured/hierarchical content for a purpose of utilizing the  
5 content portion of the structured/hierarchical content for another structured/hierarchical content.

34. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 30, wherein  
the structured/hierarchical content is a Web content.

35. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 30, comprising the classifying step where the computer classifies nodes of the target subtree into stationary nodes, updated nodes and additional nodes.

36. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 35, comprising:

- the occurrence node detecting step of classifying, as the occurrence mode to be detected, (N1) an occurrence mode where detected nodes occur in both of the target content portion and structured/hierarchical contents collated therewith and contents thereof are mutually identical, and (N2) an occurrence mode where the detected nodes occur in both of the target content portion and the structured/hierarchical contents collated therewith and the contents thereof are mutually different, and
- the classifying step of classifying, into the stationary nodes, nodes of which occurrence frequency of the occurrence mode (N1) is determined to be equal to/more than a first threshold value by the statistical information, and for classifying, into the updated nodes, nodes, of which occurrence frequency of the occurrence node (N2) is determined to be equal to/more than a second threshold value by the statistical information, and classifying, into the additional nodes, nodes other than the stationary nodes and the updated nodes, by the computer.

37. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 35, wherein

- the matching pattern generating step includes:
- a repeated portion detecting step of detecting a repeated portion in the target subtree based on the classification into the stationary nodes, the updated nodes and the additional nodes by the computer; and
- a repeated information-added matching pattern generating step of generating the matching pattern including presence information of the repeated portion by the computer.

38. (New) The processing method for a structured/hierarchical content according to claim 37, wherein

the classifying step includes:

5 a spacer image detecting step of detecting whether or not a node relating to an image is a node relating to a spacer image for ensuring a blank region by the computer;

a bullet image detecting step of detecting whether or not the node relating to the image is a node relating to a plurality of bullet images used repeatedly in a same size by the computer;

10 a first classifying step of classifying the node relating to the spacer image into the additional nodes by the computer;

a second classifying step of allocating nodes relating to the bullet image into a same classification among classifications of the stationary nodes, updated nodes and additional nodes even if display contents of the nodes are mutually different by the computer.

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39. (New) A processing method for a structured/hierarchical content, based upon a description of structured/hierarchical content to be distributed via a network and a description of matching pattern, making a determination about whether or not a description corresponding to the description of matching pattern is included in the description of structured/hierarchical content, and regarding the description portion of the structured/hierarchical content corresponding to the description of the matching pattern as a matching content portion if a result of the determination is positive, and performing predetermined processing for the structured/hierarchical content, comprising: a target subtree setting step of setting a target subtree relating to a range including a target content portion as an extracted portion of the matching pattern in the structure/hierarchical content (hereafter, referred to as a "target content") from which the matching pattern is to be extracted;

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an occurrence mode defecting step of detecting an occurrence mode of each node of the target subtree by selecting a plurality of adjacent structured/hierarchical contents with respect to the target content and collating

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the target subtree relating to the target content with a tree relating to each of the adjacent structure/hierarchical contents;

- 20       a statistical information generating step of generating statistical information concerning an occurrence frequency of the occurrence mode of each node in the target subtree based on the plurality of past structured/hierarchical contents;

- 25       a classifying step of performing classification of each node of the target subtree based on a result of detecting the occurrence mode and the statistical information; and

      a matching pattern generating step of generating the matching pattern for the target content portion based on the classification.